

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): In a casing for ~~endoscopic~~ manipulating a head assembly of an endoscope, said casing being formed of a synthetic resin material and largely constituted by a main cover section and a grip cover section, said main cover section being adapted to support thereon an operating member of an angulation control mechanism, and said grip cover section being projected forward from said main cover section to provide a grip portion between said main cover section and an insertion tube of said endoscope:

a rigid support plate provided mostly within said main cover section and partly in said grip cover section to support said angulation control mechanism;

a passage forming structure for passing through internal components to or from said insertion tube of said endoscope comprising a plural number of ~~passage-forming~~ tubular ~~structural~~ members successively connected one after another within said grip cover section ~~for passing internal components to or from said insertion tube of said endoscope, a base end tubular member of said passage forming structure a tubular member at the proximal end of said grip cover section~~ being connected to said rigid support plate and a fore end tubular member thereof being connected to said insertion tube;

a first anti-twist lock portion for blocking rotational movements of said grip cover section relative to said main cover section ~~[[,]] formed by said support plate between said main cover section and a proximal end of said grip cover section connected to said main cover section;~~ and

a second anti-twist lock portion formed between a joint portion of said ~~tubular members~~ passage forming structure and said grip cover section of said casing;

wherein said first anti-twist lock portion being formed by placing opposite edge portions of said support plate in a pair of axial grooves provided on inner surfaces of said main and grip cover sections of said casing.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A casing for endoscopic manipulating the head assembly of the endoscope as defined in claim 1, wherein ~~a passage is formed in and through said grip cover section by successively connecting three tubular structural members, including a first said base end tubular member being connected to at least one intermediate tubular member said support plate at a proximal end thereof and connected a second tubular member at a fore end thereof through a reinforcing ring, and said second fore end tubular member having a fore end portion thereof being inserted into a fore end of said intermediate in a proximal end portion of a third tubular member.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A casing for endoscopic manipulating the head assembly of the endoscope as defined in claim 2, wherein said ~~first to third~~ base end tubular member[[s]], said at least one intermediate tubular member and said fore end tubular member are as well as said support plate is formed of a light metal, and said reinforcing ring between said first and second tubular members is of stainless steel.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A casing for endoscopic manipulating the head assembly of the endoscope as defined in claim 3, wherein said ~~first to third~~ base end tubular member[[s]], said at least one intermediate tubular member and said fore end tubular member are as well as said support plate is formed of aluminum or an aluminum alloy.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A casing for ~~endoscopic~~ manipulating the head assembly of the endoscope as defined in claim 1, wherein said second anti-twist lock portion is formed by an axial groove provided on a large diameter portion at a fitting joint portion of said ~~tubular structural member~~ base end tubular member, and an axial ~~protuberance~~ projection or rib provided on an inner surface of said grip cover section for tight fitting engagement with said axial groove.